

Serial No. 10/026,337

PATENT  
Docket No. 47406-011500AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** A method of removing excess fill material comprising:

providing a printed wiring board having filled holes and at least some excess fill material on a surface of the printed wiring board;

providing a system comprising a polished, flexible, and sharpened along at least one edge scavenging blade such that it has a width less than or equal to approximately 0.003 inches;

positioning the printed wiring board in a printed wiring board receiving portion in the system; and

providing a movement mechanism adapted to move the scavenging blade and printed wiring board receiving portion relative to each other; and

causing the scavenging blade to traverse at least a portion of the printed wiring board in a manner that causes the scavenging blade to remove at least a portion of the excess fill material from the printed wiring board.

**Claim 2 (cancelled)****Claim 3 (cancelled)****Claim 4 (cancelled)****Claim 5 (cancelled)**

**Claim 6 (currently amended):** The method of claim 1 wherein the system further comprises A method of removing excess fill material comprising:

providing a printed wiring board having filled holes and at least some excess fill material on a surface of the printed wiring board;

providing a system comprising a scavenging blade;

a filling mechanism to which the scavenging blade is coupled; and the step of

positioning the printed wiring board in the system; and

causing the scavenging blade to traverse at least a portion of the printed wiring board involves causing the filling mechanism to traverse at least a portion of the printed wiring board.

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**Claim 7 (original):** The method of claim 6 wherein the step of causing the scavenging blade to traverse at least a portion of the printed wiring board involves causing the printed wiring board to move while the filling mechanism and coupled scavenging blade remain stationary.

**Claim 8 (original):** The method of claim 7 wherein movement of the printed wiring board is at least partially accomplished by placing the printed wiring board on a conveyor belt or on a roller track.

**Claim 9 (original):** The method of claim 6 wherein the filling mechanism comprises a filling head that can be moved closer to or farther away from the printed wiring board.

**Claim 10 (original):** The method of claim 6 wherein the system comprises both first and second scavenging blades positioned on opposite sides of the printed wiring board.

**Claim 11 (original):** The method of claim 10 wherein the step of causing the scavenging blade to traverse at least a portion of the printed wiring board involves causing the printed wiring board to move between the first and second scavenging blades while the first and second scavenging blades remain stationary.